CLAIMS

1. A control module comprising:
   a motherboard bus connector for communication with a motherboard;
   a motherboard bus to serial port bridge module;
   at least one serial port connector; and
   a processor module.

2. The control module of Claim 1 adapted to provide at least one peripheral control port for said motherboard.

3. The control module of any previous Claim wherein the processor module comprises a monitoring means for monitoring the state of said motherboard.

4. The control module of Claim 3 wherein the monitoring means further monitors the state of software running on said motherboard.

5. The control module of any previous Claim wherein the processor module has a battery power supply separate from the PC power supply.

6. The control module of any previous Claim wherein the processor module further comprises a power supply monitoring means for monitoring the state of a power supply supplying said motherboard.

7. A system comprising a motherboard and the control module of any previous Claim.

8. The system of Claim 7 further comprising a socket server means for providing event handlers for at least one serial port corresponding to said at least one serial port connector and operating substantially in between the application layer and the operating system layer of the software executing on the motherboard.

9. The system of Claim 7 further comprising a socket server means for providing event handlers for said at least one peripheral control port and operating substantially in between the application layer and the operating system layer of the software executing on the motherboard.

10. The system of any previous Claim further comprising a battery, a power supply and a battery management circuit wherein an electrical connection between said battery and said power supply is diverted through said battery management circuit and said battery management circuit is controlled by said processor module.